

THE TRANSPORTATION LINK



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**From the Desk of
Ronald A. Stroman
Acting Director of the
Office of Small and Disadvantaged
Business Utilization**

Each year the DOT recognizes members of our small and disadvantaged business community who have made significant contributions to the transportation industry. In this edition of the *Transportation Link* we proudly feature our 2000 Minority Enterprise Development Week (MEDWeek) award winners.

I would like to personally congratulate and thank each of the award recipients for their efforts throughout this pivotal year. Their hard work is a vital contribution to the transportation industry and the nation's economy.

I would also like to congratulate the members of the ONEDOT Small Business Team that received the Secretary's Partnering for Excellence Award at the DOT Annual Awards Ceremony. OSDBU is proud to be a part of this celebrated effort.

This month's edition will also touch on two legislative announcements that impact our small and disadvantaged business community. You have the opportunity to provide written comments on both.

In conclusion, as we prepare to bid farewell to the year 2000, I hope that each of you has a safe and happy holiday season. In your holiday travels, please be sure to Buckle Up America!



Entrepreneurs Honored During DOT MED Week Awards Ceremony

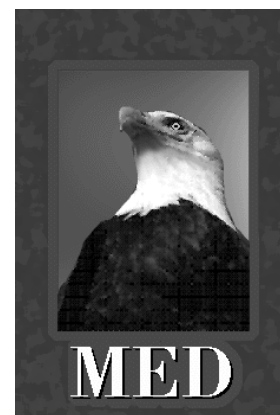
On October 26, 2000, minority and women entrepreneurs who have had significant achievements and made vital contributions to the transportation industry and the nation's economy were honored at the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week Awards Ceremony. A total of seventeen small businesses received awards from the Department's Operating Administrations. Two of these were from the Office of the Secretary of Transportation (OST). Additionally, eleven government officials and five Department officials received awards for their outstanding contributions in the area of minority and women-owned business enterprises and advocates.

Each year, the DOT's Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) coordinates the award ceremony as a follow-up to the Annual National MED Week Conference co-sponsored by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA), and the U.S. Small Business Administration's Office of Government Contracting and Minority Enterprise Development (GC/MED).

MED Week, which was celebrated September 24 - 27, 2000, is the largest Federal advocacy and educational event sponsored on behalf of minority business enterprises (MBEs). It provides a forum for discussing issues affecting the growth and development of minority enterprises, many of which are considered small businesses. This year's theme "New Horizons: The Emerging Minority Marketplace" highlights the importance of minority businesses in America's economic growth.

During MED Week, DOT Secretary Rodney E. Slater noted that the Department has exceeded its goals for contract awards to minority-owned businesses for each of the last three years. In 1999, 17.9 percent of DOT contracts went to minority-owned businesses, up from 17 percent the previous year and well above the Department's goal of 14.5 percent. In addition, more DOT contracts are being awarded to businesses owned by women than ever before.

"President Clinton and Vice President Gore are committed to enabling all Americans to participate in our nation's prosperity," U.S. Transportation Secretary Rodney E. Slater said. "As we celebrate our past successes, the U.S. Department of Transportation will continue to expand opportunities for minority and women entrepreneurs in all transportation fields."



OSDBU

Office of Small
and Disadvantaged
Business Utilization

wants to hear from you!! Call us toll-free at 1 800 532-1169 with questions or comments about this newsletter or our web site. The Transportation Link's content may be reprinted without permission.

Minority Enterprise Development

MED WEEK 2000 AWARDS

Federal Highway Administration

**OUTSTANDING MINORITY
BUSINESS ENTERPRISE AWARD**
DUANE(GILLE) NESHEK
President
Arrow-Crete Construction, LLC.



**OUTSTANDING WOMEN-OWNED
BUSINESS ENTERPRISE AWARD**
BONNIE JEAN RIMEL-JOHNSON
President
Bonn-J Contracting Inc., of Florida

DOLLY OBEROI
President
C2 Multimedia, Inc.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S OUTSTANDING
DISADVANTAGED
BUSINESS ENTERPRISE AWARD**
ANNETTE BAILEY
DBE Supportive Services Coordinator
OHIO DOT

United States Coast Guard

**COMMANDANT'S MINORITY
BUSINESS ENTERPRISE AWARD**
RAYMOND FUENTEZ
&
ESPETCION FUENTEZ
Owners
Fuentez Systems Concepts, Inc.

**COMMANDANT'S WOMEN-OWNED
BUSINESS ENTERPRISE AWARD**
DEBRA J. HESS
LAURETT A. MANUEL
Owners
DTL Professionals

**COMMANDANT'S OUTSTANDING
MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE
AWARD**
PETER FRECHETTE
Small Business Specialist



Federal Railroad Administration

**ADMINISTRATOR'S OUTSTANDING
MINORITY
BUSINESS ENTERPRISE AWARD**
ILLONA WILLIAMS
Director
Office of Acquisition and Grants Services



Bureau of Transportation Statistics

**DIRECTOR'S OUTSTANDING
MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE
AWARD**

XIAOLI HAN
President
MacroSys Research and Technology



Office of the Secretary SECRETARY'S OUTSTANDING WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE ADVOCATE AWARD

PHYLLIS MIRIASHTIANI
United States Coast Guard

INEZ C. WILLIAMS
Federal Aviation Administration

DALE MOORE-JOHNSON
Federal Transit Administration

RHONDA M. DEWS
Federal Railroad Administration

LISA WILUSZ
Research and Special Programs
Administration

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Transportation Administration Service Center

**DIRECTOR'S WOMEN-OWNED
BUSINESS ENTERPRISE AWARD**
MADELINE FRIED
President
Fried & Sher, Inc.

**DIRECTOR'S SMALL
BUSINESS ENTERPRISE AWARD**
HENRY FRAIN
President
Compusearch Software System

WILLIAM BENTLY
President
Graphic Visions Associates

**DIRECTOR'S OUTSTANDING
MINORITY AND SMALL
BUSINESS ENTERPRISE
ADVOCATE AWARD**
REGINALD HOLLOWAY
Procurement Center Representative
Small Business Administration



National Highway Traffic Safety Administration



**ADMINISTRATOR'S OUTSTANDING
MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE
AWARD**

BHASKER D. AGARWAL
President
Information Systems and Services,
Inc. (ISSI)

**OUTSTANDING WOMEN-OWNED
BUSINESS ENTERPRISE AWARD**
RENA LEE
Owner

Infologics Corporation
**ADMINISTRATOR'S OUTSTANDING
MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE
AWARD**
ALAN BLOCK
Research Psychologist

Research and Special Programs Administration

OUTSTANDING MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE AWARD

BERNARD LEE
President
Labblee Corporation

OUTSTANDING WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE AWARD

MARY ANNE ELLIOTT
President & CEO
Arrowhead Space & Telecommunications, Inc.

ADMINISTRATOR'S OUTSTANDING MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE AWARD

Mary E. Doherty
Chief, Contracts and Small Business Programs Branch

Federal Aviation Administration

ADMINISTRATOR'S OUTSTANDING MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE AWARD

JENNIFER GOODEN
Management/Program Analyst



GERALD A. LEWIS, SR.
Program Analyst

JOHN LIPPE
Contracting Officer

Maritime Administration

OUTSTANDING MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE AWARD

DONNA BRIDGEFORTH
President
Bridgeforth Wolf & Associates



DAVID ST. ETIENNE
Owner
Ultimate Marketing

OUTSTANDING WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE AWARD

JOSEPHINE GUENTHER
President
Sun Bay Contracting, Inc.

Federal Transit Administration

OUTSTANDING WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE AWARD

ASHLEY CHEN
President
ActioNet, Inc.

FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

ADMINISTRATOR'S OUTSTANDING MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE AWARD

KIMBERLY MARSHALL
Program Analyst

Proposed Amendment to Current 8(a) Regulations

On November 8, 2000, the Small Business Administration (SBA) proposed an amendment to its current 8(a) regulations to permit delegation to procuring agencies of its authority to accept requirements for the 8(a) program.

SBA believes that this change will reduce the administrative burden on procuring agencies and allow SBA to refocus its efforts on providing business development, including contract assistance, to program participants. In addition it is estimated that the amendment will reduce the 8(a) procurement lead-time by up to twelve days.

SBA will continue to determine eligibility for the award of 8(a) contracts, but will do so on an annual rather than on a contract-by-contract basis. The listing of firms that are eligible for the award of 8(a) contracts would be maintained in SBA's PRO-Net database. Program participants will be required to notify SBA of any changes in ownership, control, social disadvantage or economic disadvantage in order to ensure the accuracy of PRO-Net.

The proposed amendment, as it appears in the Federal Register, can be viewed on the OSDDBU web site at <http://osdbuweb.dot.gov/conferences/sbarule.html>.

Written comments should be addressed to Linda Williams, Associate Administrator for Policy, Planning, and Liaison, 409 Third Street, SW., Washington, DC 20416. Comments must be submitted on or before January 8, 2001.

For more information on the DOT award ceremony, call Brenda Preston at (800) 532-1169 x66397 or e-mail brenda.preston@ost.dot.gov. To read the DOT press release about the MED Week Awards Ceremony visit <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/2000/dot21300.htm>.

Participation by DBEs in DOT Financial Assistance Programs: Threshold Requirements and Other Technical Revisions

On November 15, DOT released an interim final rule revising the Department's regulations for its Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program. The document changes threshold requirements for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) recipients and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) recipients to establish DBE programs and submit overall goals.

The current rule requires FTA and FAA recipients who receive \$250,000 in grants or funding in a fiscal year to have a DBE program. The change requires FTA and FAA recipients who project awarding more than \$250,000 in prime contracts in a Federal fiscal year from FTA or FAA assistance to have a DBE program. Prime contracts include goods as well as contracts for services.

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ONEDOT **Small Business Team** **Receives Secretary's** **Partnering for Excellence** **Award**

OSDBU is proud to be a part of the ONEDOT Small Business Team that received the prestigious U.S. DOT Secretary Rodney E. Slater Partnering for Excellence Award at the Department of Transportation's (DOT) Annual Awards Ceremony.

This award recognizes intermodal teams/groups who have used the Partnership for Excellence model to further ONEDOT activities supporting one or more DOT Strategic Plan goal.

The Team was presented this award for outstanding results in support of DOT's strategic outcome goal "...to encourage and assist small, women-owned and disadvantaged businesses to participate in DOT and DOT-assisted contracts and grants."

In the spirit of ONEDOT, OSDBU pledges to continue its commitment to providing exemplary customer service to, and promoting contract opportunities for, the small, women-owned and disadvantaged business community.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR **December 2000/January 2001**

DATE	EVENT	CONTACT
December 14-15	ITS America Trade Associations Legislative Conference on ITS and TEA21 Washington, DC	Katrina Mayo (202) 484-4549 kmayo@itsa.org http://www.itsa.org
January 8	Transportation Research Board Annual Conference Washington, DC	Cynthia Wilson (217) 244-3833
Every 2nd & 4th Tuesday	Information Sessions on Gaining Grants/Contracts SBIR & STTR Programs Sponsored by SBA Washington, DC	Darrell Williams (202) 887-6709

You can search for regional calendar items in your state on the SBA web site at <http://www.sba.gov/calendar/>

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DOT is making these changes to decrease the administrative burden on small airport and transit authorities. Many of these transit authorities and small airports receive more than \$250,000 in FTA or FAA funds but only have a small amount of funding for actual contracting opportunities.

The rule also makes technical changes and provides guidance on Bidders Lists, monitoring and counting DBE participation and goal setting.

You can view this announcement as it appeared in the Federal Register at <http://osdbuweb.dot.gov/conferences/interimfinalrule.html>

For additional information, contact Laura Aguilar, Attorney, Office of General Counsel for Environmental, Civil Rights, and General Law, on (202) 366-0365.

Written comments should be sent to the Docket Clerk, Docket No. OST-2000-7640, Department of Transportation, 400 7th Street, SW, Room PL-401, Washington, DC 20590. Comments must be submitted no later than January 2, 2001.

In late December or early January, we anticipate publishing a Notice of Proposed Rule-making (NPRM) containing implementation procedures for the November 1999 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between DOT and the Small Business Administration. The MOU provides for a streamlined uniform application process for small and disadvantaged businesses that will be recognized by both agencies. The NPRM will also include a proposed uniform reporting form and a proposed uniform certification application form.

<http://osdbuweb.dot.gov>

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